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6 October 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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3. United Nations: Moscow apparently will accept U Thant as interim secretary general "with full powers" but wants five or six undersecretaries. (*Page ttt*)
4. Portugal: Security officials taking elaborate precautions to protect Salazar during pre-election period. (*Page ttt*)

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[redacted]

UN Secretary General: [The USSR has indicated that it would agree to the appointment of U Thant of Burma to serve as interim secretary general "with full powers" until April 1963, provided that he announce his intention to designate five or six under secretaries to serve as his principal advisers. These would be appointed "on the basis of equitable geographic distribution" and could include some of the present under secretaries. The appointing action would be taken in the Security Council by consensus of members, thereby avoiding the necessity of a formal vote.] [redacted] No

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Portugal: Portuguese officials are showing some nervousness over the effect the campaign for the 12 November National Assembly elections may have on the stability of the Salazar regime. Security police have taken elaborate precautions to forestall any assassination attempt on the premier, which they fear might be planned by exile leaders to dramatize their opposition. Salazar's National Union party, which now controls all 120 seats in the National Assembly, is expected to retain nearly all of the seats in the new assembly. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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Appointment of an Interim UN Secretary General

[The 52-year-old U Thant has been Burma's permanent representative at the United Nations since 1957. A close friend of Prime Minister U Nu, Thant has been regarded as one of Burma's more able public servants. He is in accord with Burma's neutralist objectives, but within this pattern is broadly pro-Western in outlook and, according to the American Embassy in Rangoon, a strong anti-Communist. He vigorously defends the right of newly emerging nations to occupy a neutral position between East and West, and has been a persistent advocate of Communist China's admission to the UN. U Thant is a suave, well-groomed man, equally pleasant to those whom he likes and those he dislikes. He speaks excellent English.]

[Hammaraskjold himself considered U Thant a capable negotiator. In January, when he was searching for a successor to Dayal as chief UN mediator in the Congo, Hammaraskjold said he would appoint U Thant if the Burmese Government would release him.]

[In June 1960, as part of his proposed reorganization of the UN Secretariat, Hammaraskjold suggested that five assistant secretaries general with "political" responsibilities be appointed on a broad regional basis. One assistant would always be a US national and one a Soviet. The remaining three should be "nationals from countries outside any power blocs." Although this phraseology seems to endorse the concept of three power blocs, Hammaraskjold on 20 July assured the US delegation that it did not establish any new criteria for the selection of Secretariat personnel beyond competence and geographic distribution, as specified in the UN Charter. Moreover, Hammaraskjold intended to retain the right to appoint these assistants.]

[During the past week UN members, particularly those of the Afro-Asian bloc, have been promoting this plan for five under secretaries with a single secretary general. Their efforts--plus the strong opposition of the West to the troika at the secretary general level--may have influenced the USSR to accede to U Thant's appointment with five advisers.]

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Portuguese Government Concerned Over Election Opposition

[Interior Minister Santos Junior reportedly foresees a "very tough" electoral campaign. He is probably more concerned over the possibility of propaganda gains by the opposition and public disturbances than whether the government will lose any seats. It is customary to relax press censorship during the 30-day period prior to national elections, but the government is expected to use other methods to hamper the opposition campaign. Several prominent opposition leaders have recently been arrested. Fragmentation further weakens the opposition's chances.]

[Present indications are that opposition lists of candidates will be presented in as many as seven of the metropolitan electoral districts and in Angola and Mozambique. In past elections, the regime has invalidated most or all of the opposition lists before election day.]

[Leading exile oppositionists Henrique Galvao, of Santa Maria fame, and Humberto Delgado, the defeated presidential candidate in 1958, are reportedly in Morocco and Yugoslavia respectively. Although they are expected to engineer some dramatic act during the campaign, they are not expected to exert appreciable influence in Portugal. They lack effective coordination with the opposition within the country, and the police are considered capable of handling any disturbances.]

[The new assembly, which will be enlarged to 130 deputies to give the overseas provinces increased representation, is primarily a consultative body. It was given some added political prestige by a constitutional amendment in 1959 making it part of the electoral college which will elect the next president of the republic in 1965.]

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